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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

FOR NEA DAS LAROCCO, NEA/ARP DJONES AND MMILLER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [YM](#) [COUNTER](#) [TERRORISM](#) [MARITIME](#) [SECURITY](#)

SUBJECT: EMBASSY SANA'A PROPOSAL FOR PKO FUNDS

11. (SBU) Below is the spending proposal from US Embassy Sanaa for use of \$5 million PKO funds in Yemen.

12. (SBU) We have three (3) objectives in using these funds:
(1) Continue to move forward with the Counter Terrorism fight in Yemen and, as a second/third order effect, in the region,
(2) Provide an infrastructure for joint use by the Yemen Navy/Coast Guard as part of the Maritime Security Strategy, and
(3) Preclude any involvement of North Korea in Yemeni maritime affairs.

13. (SBU) The Yemen Maritime Strategy directs that the Yemen Navy and Coast Guard work jointly to secure its ports and interdict sea borne infiltration from the Red Sea. The Yemen Coast Guard performs its mission out to 12 nautical miles while the Yemen Navy works from 12 nautical miles and out. Currently, the ROYG is standing up the Yemen Coast Guard with EDA patrol boats from the USCG. The ROYG has let a contract to buy ten patrol boats from an Australian firm. While these are good first steps, no infrastructure exists to maintain the boats over the long term. Without this infrastructure the new boats will quickly become inoperational and the Maritime Strategy unworkable.

14. (SBU) Additionally, it is necessary to train the officers and men of the Yemen Navy and Coast Guard. English language proficiency is a hugely lacking in Yemen. We need to take it upon ourselves to train these officers and men in English so they can travel to the United States and undergo training in our service schools. This has the added affect of immersing these officers and men in the US lifestyle and professionalism of the US Armed Forces that they will bring back to Yemen.

15. (SBU) We have found that as we bring trainers in to train the Yemen Armed Forces the Yemen soldiers do not have the basic equipment of soldiering to include uniforms, boots, helmets and other needed items. We then lose valuable training time as we buy essential items of equipment for their use. We propose to stockpile uniforms, boots, helmets and other equipment so as we begin to train these soldiers they look and feel as if they belong to a professional unit. This has a great impact on morale and professionalism.

16. (SBU) We propose to spend \$4.45M on Yemen Navy/Coast Guard infrastructure to include mobile repair shops, marine travel lift, secure communications equipment, facility establishment, engine repair parts, hull repair parts, maritime skills training, and coastal security and counter terrorism training. Additionally, we propose to spend \$350K on English language training for up to 200 personnel and \$200K for basic and essential soldiering equipment.

17. (SBU) In a meeting with the Yemen Armed Forces Chief of Staff, the Ambassador also reiterated the importance of Yemeni understanding of USG sensitivities to any Yemeni cooperation with North Korea in the construction of the Yemeni navy port at Hodeidah. (Ambassador will be meeting with Minister of Defense on this subject next week.)

18. (SBU) This proposal achieves the objectives outlined in paragraph 1 above and also attains US goals and interests in Yemen and the region. Request approval of the proposal and the release of the \$5M PKO funds to Yemen.

HULL